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FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6577
INFO RUEHBUL/AMEMBASSY KABUL PRIORITY 8476
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY 7738
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY 3139
RUEHKF/AMCONSUL KARACHI PRIORITY 9583
RUEHLH/AMCONSUL LAHORE PRIORITY 5334
RUEHPW/AMCONSUL PESHAWAR PRIORITY 4067
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUMICEA/USCENTCOM INTEL CEN MACDILL AFB FL PRIORITY
RHWSMRC/USCINCCENT MACDILL AFB FL PRIORITY
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC PRIORITY

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 ISLAMABAD 001613

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 04/16/2018

TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [PHUM](#) [KNNF](#) [PK](#)

SUBJECT: PAKISTANI LEADERS DENY INTENT TO RELEASE A.Q. KHAN

REF: STATE 37957

Classified By: Anne W. Patterson, for reasons 1.4 (b)(d)

[1](#)1. (C) Summary. In separate meetings with Strategic Plans Division (SPD) Chief Kidwai, Pakistan People's Party Co-Chair Zardari, and President

[1](#)2. (C) Kidwai is due next week to brief the National Command Authority, including the new Prime Minister, on nuclear issues. This will inclu

[1](#)3. (C) DCM and Polcouns met April 15 with Strategic Plans Division (SPD) Chief LtGen (ret) Kidwai to deliver reftel points. Kidwai was accc

Kidwai: Ask the New Government

[1](#)4. (C) DCM noted that recent press articles and statements by some GOP officials about the possible release of A.Q. Khan has caused alarm ar

[1](#)5. (C) Kidwai said he was scheduled in the coming week to brief Prime Minister Gillani and the other National Command Authority members (FM

[1](#)6. (C) Kidwai said he fully understood international concerns if Khan were released. But Khan remains a national hero, noted Kidwai, and th

Gas Leak at Khushab: "Minor"

[1](#)7. (C) Asked by the DCM about the April 8 gas leak at the Khushab heavy water plant which killed two workers, Kidwai said the leak had been

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radiation leak.

[1](#)8. (C) When the DCM asked if Kidwai expected the cash-strapped government to cut back on military or nuclear programs, Kidwai defended his p

Zardari: No Release

[1](#)9. (C) Ambassador followed up on the A.Q. Khan issue April 16 with Pakistan People's Party Co-Chair Asif Zardari. Zardari said categorically

[1](#)10. (C) Comment: Benazir Bhutto's public comments (made in the U.S. before she returned to Pakistan) that she would grant the IAEA access to

[1](#)11. (C) Comment continued: Pakistan is facing a severe cash-crunch, fed largely by rising fuel prices, and extensive rolling power blackout

Musharraf: No Release

[1](#)12. (C) Separately, on April 17, President Musharraf assured Ambassador that there were no plans to release Khan. "He knows what he did and

PATTERSON